

Hawaii fruit growers harvested 743.3 million pounds of fruit for fresh and processed utilization in 1998, up 3 percent from 1997. Fruit acreage totaled 28,660 acres, 3 percent higher than last year. More fruit acreage planted on former sugarcane land, along with additional pineapple acreage, were the main reasons for the increase. Compared to 1997, pineapples, papayas, and bananas were higher. Pineapples continued to account for the majority, 89 percent, of the State's 1998 fruit output, making up 79 percent of the fresh utilization and 96 percent of the processed utilization. Lower outputs were experienced by guavas and other fruits. Avocados remained unchanged from 1997.



The farm value of all fruits totaled \$117.4 million in 1998, 3 percent lower than 1997 and declining for the second year. Compared with the previous year, farm values were lower for papayas, guavas, avocados, and other fruits but higher for pineapples and bananas. Honolulu county remained the top fruit producing county in the State, generating more than half of the value at \$70.8 million, with pineapples contributing the largest share. The leading fruit crops are:

- **Pineapple**

Hawaii's 1998 pineapple production is estimated at 664.0 million pounds, 2 percent higher than 1997. Fresh sales of 222.0 million pounds were 8 percent higher than 1997. Processed utilization, totaling 442.0 million pounds, remained unchanged from a year ago. The equivalent farm value of the 1998 pineapple crop is estimated at \$92.8 million, 1 percent higher than 1997.

- **Papaya**

Fresh papaya utilization totaled 35.6 million pounds in 1998, slightly down from last year, accounting for 89 percent of the total papaya utilization. Processed papaya utilization increased 39 percent in 1998 to 4.3 million pounds. In May 1998, the transgenic seeds for the new Rainbow variety were distributed with limitations. This variety is resistant to the papaya ringspot disease and is expected to allow farmers to grow fruit in virus stricken areas. Total papaya sales were down 34 percent from 1997 to \$12.6 million.

- **Banana**

Banana growers harvested a record 21.0 million pounds in 1998, up 53 percent from a year ago. Increased Cavendish acreage on Hawaii and Honolulu counties was the main reason for the boost. The farm-gate value for locally produced bananas totaled a record of \$7.4 million, 41 percent more than 1997. The record output, especially during the last half of the year, resulted in sharp decreases in imports to satisfy Hawaii's market needs. Total in-crop acreage February 1, 1999 reached an all-time high 1,600 acres, 10 acres more than last year. Harvested acreage was up 470 acres to 1,420.